



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

Detroit District

MARCH 3, 2009

News Release

Release No. PA-030309-01

For Release: IMMEDIATELY

Contact: Lynn Duerod 313-226-4680

Lynn.M.Duerod@lre02.usace.army.mil

www.lre.usace.army.mil

Corps releases the results of dam safety analysis of the Lower Fox River Dams

DETROIT — To ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' commitment to public safety, the Corps is performing a risk analysis of all its dams across the country.

The purpose of the nationwide analysis, called a Screening for Portfolio Risk Analysis (SPRA), is to focus and prioritize dam safety decisions and to allocate funding based on risk. These reports assign a Dam Safety Action Classification (DSAC) using a scale from I to V, with I representing the highest risk dams.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, operates and maintains nine federal dams on the lower Fox River in Wisconsin. Of these nine dams, five were rated as DSAC II (Urgent), one was rated DSAC IV (Marginally Safe), and the reports on the last three are pending but expected to be rated DSAC IV.

The five dams that received the DSAC II rating (Urgent) are the Upper Appleton, Cedars, Little Chute, Rapide Croche, and De Pere dams. These five dams received DSAC II ratings due to concerns with cracking at the gate anchorages, which raises the risk for gate failure. The cracks have been monitored by Corps staff since the 1970s, and are not showing signs of rapid progression.

The sixth dam, Little Kaukauna Dam, received a DSAC IV (Marginally Safe) rating. For the remaining three lower Fox River dams—Menasha, Lower Appleton, and Kaukauna—the screening process was completed, and with results pending, are expected to result in DSAC IV ratings. However, these ratings are being reviewed to ensure consistency in the rating process and are not considered final yet.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District, is preparing an Interim Risk Reduction Measures Plan in response to the SPRA reports, which were released on February 10, 2009. The Interim Risk Reduction Measures Plan will define actions to be taken at the DSAC II dams to reduce the risk to an acceptable level until a permanent repair is implemented. The Detroit District is also actively seeking funding to permanently repair the dams as soon as possible. The interim actions being considered include, but are not limited to, sealing concrete cracks, increasing dam monitoring, and possible pool restrictions.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is committed to transparent and honest communication with the media and public and will continue to update affected communities as the plan develops. A public meeting will be announced in the near future.

For questions regarding this matter, please contact Tina Kowitz, Dam Safety Program Manager, (313) 226-6719 or via email tina.p.kowitz@usace.army.mil